

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. With respect to independent claim 4: The claim is considered to be allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record neither discloses nor suggests an immobilization assembly comprising the complete configuration of the claimed limitations as set forth in applicant's claim 4. Specifically, elements that designate the claim as allowable comprise the solid state device that captures photon intensity from an illuminated object at a plurality of pixel locations, each one of the plurality of pixel locations including a plurality of successive diode junctions formed at the boundary of nested p-type and n-type semiconductor wells, each diode junction selectively detecting incident light over a range of wavelengths, wherein at least three of the diode junctions detect wavelengths of visible light from the object at that pixel location, thereby providing a visible light imaging having three color components, and a fourth one of the diode junctions monochromatically detecting an intensity of infrared wavelengths from the object at that pixel location. It is the entire combination of the claim limitations taken as a whole that constitutes both the novelty and non-obviousness of applicant's claim as set forth above.
3. The prior art of record such as Merrill (US Patent Number 5,965,875), Okada (US Patent Number 6,133,953), Imaizumi et al (US Patent Number 6,293,911 B1), Sano et al (US Patent Number 5,701,903), Connolly (US Patent Number 6,198,147 B1) and Johnson et al (US Patent Number 6,455,908 B1) fail to teach, suggest or show

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applicant's specific system including a solid state device that captures photon intensity from an illuminated object at a plurality of pixel locations, an image processing system and a camera containing a lens, the solid state device and the image processing system. Specifically, it is the combined structural features set forth in independent claim 4 which makes the claims novel and not obvious over the prior art of record. The prior art of record and the instant application are different and nonobvious in the structural component relationships.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NICHOLAS L. EVOY whose telephone number is (571)270-1388. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00, Alternating Fridays Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on (571)272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/NICHOLAS L. EVOY/
Examiner, Art Unit 3768

/Long V Le/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3768